

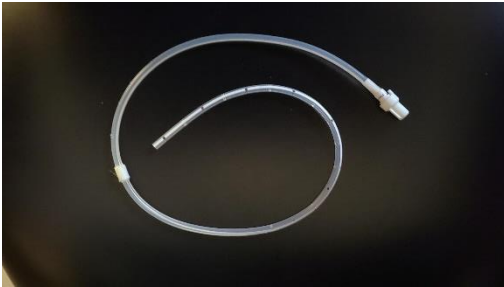


Having an Abdominal Drainage Catheter Inserted

This handout offers information on an abdominal drainage catheter and what you need to know before having it inserted.

What is a drainage catheter?

A drainage catheter is a soft silicone rubber tube. This drainage catheter is inserted (put) into your abdomen by a doctor to allow built up fluid in your abdomen to drain out. It may be inserted surgically or by an interventional radiologist using an ultrasound machine. This is a picture of a drainage catheter:



What is ascites?

Ascites is the buildup of fluid in the space between the lining of your abdomen (belly) and your abdominal organs (also called peritoneal cavity). If there are cancer cells in this fluid, it is called malignant ascites. Having this buildup of fluid in your abdomen may make you:

- Feel short of breath,
- Have pain in your abdomen
- Gain weight

How a drainage catheter can help you

You have been having a regular procedure called a paracentesis to remove built up fluid from your abdomen. A drainage catheter allows the built up fluid to be drained from your abdomen without having to go to a hospital to have it done. It can be done in your home by a visiting nurse. It can also be done more often than a paracentesis to remove smaller amounts of built up fluid.

What you need to do to prepare to have a drainage catheter inserted

1. If you take **Aspirin®**, do not stop it. Keep taking it as prescribed by your doctor.
2. If you take a blood thinning medication (other than Aspirin®)

You may need to have bloodwork done before your drainage catheter is inserted. The results of this bloodwork helps the doctor decide if you need to stop your blood thinning medication before your drainage catheter is inserted. Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions about this.

3. The doctor may order a laxative for you to take before your drainage catheter is inserted.
4. Do not drink alcohol for 24 hours before your drainage catheter is inserted.

On the day your drainage catheter drainage is inserted

- An adult must drive you to and from the hospital and stay with you for 24 hours after you go home.
- Bring your health card and a list of the medications you are taking to this appointment.

If your appointment is in the morning

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your drainage catheter is inserted.
- Take your regular medications with a sip of water.

If your appointment is in the afternoon

- Do not eat anything after midnight the night before your drainage catheter is inserted.
- You may drink clear fluids in the morning. Clear fluids include water, clear fruit juices you can see through, clear tea (no milk or sugar) and black coffee (no milk or sugar).
- Stop drinking fluids 2 hours before your drainage catheter is inserted.

Having your drainage catheter inserted

Check in at the reception desk of the Diagnostic Imaging department. The Diagnostic Imaging department is located in the N-wing on the main floor of the hospital. You will change into a hospital gown and lie down on a stretcher. A nurse will insert an intravenous (IV) line into one of your veins. The interventional radiologist will tell you how the drainage catheter is inserted and answer any questions you have. You will be asked to sign a consent to have the drainage catheter inserted. You may be given medication(s) that will help you relax and make you sleepy.

You will be brought into a procedure room and moved onto an X-ray table. A nurse will take your blood pressure, heart rate, and check your oxygen levels. This will be done many times while your drainage catheter is being inserted. An oxygen mask may be placed on your face. It takes about 1 hour for the drainage catheter to be inserted.

The skin on your abdomen will be cleaned with an antiseptic to keep you from getting an infection. It will feel cold and wet and may colour your skin pink. The interventional radiologist will insert a needle into your abdomen. You will feel the needle stick and then some mild burning. This needle has medication in it to freeze the area so you do not feel pain when the drainage catheter is being inserted.

You will be awake during this time. You will be given a medication through your IV to help you relax. It will make you feel sleepy. You will also be given a pain medication to keep you comfortable.

The interventional radiologist will make two small cuts (punctures) in your skin where the drainage catheter is inserted. An ultrasound or x-ray is used to make sure it is inserted in the right place. The drainage catheter is inserted through the first small cut and under your skin (tunnelled) to the second cut. You may feel a little pushing or pulling at this time.

The built up fluid in your abdomen will be drained out at this time. After the fluid is drained out, your drainage catheter will be closed with a cap or connected to a drainage bag. A bandage dressing will be placed over the small cut where the drainage catheter is tunneled under your skin. A second bandage dressing will be placed over the area where the drainage catheter comes out of your skin. Your drainage catheter will be taped to your abdomen to keep it in place.

The interventional radiologist will put in a few stitches to keep your drainage catheter in place. Your stitches may be dissolvable. If not, a visiting nurse will come to your home to remove the stitches in 1 to 2 weeks. Your drainage catheter has a small balloon that sits just below your skin. This balloon cannot be seen. It holds your catheter in place after the stitches are taken out.

You will stay in the hospital for about 2 to 4 hours after your drainage catheter is inserted. A nurse will care for you during this time. An adult must drive you home from the hospital and stay with you for 24 hours.

After your drainage catheter is inserted

A visiting nurse from Home and Community Care Support Services will see you in your home 24 hours after your drainage catheter was inserted. This nurse will change your bandage dressing(s). If these dressing(s) stays dry, they only need to be changed every 2 to 3 days.

Do not get your dressing(s) wet for the first 2 weeks. Your incision(s) need to stay dry. Wash your hands before touching your dressings. This helps prevent infection.

You may take a shower with the dressing off when your incision(s) are healed. After your shower, you need to put a new dressing on. Do not have a tub bath, sit in a hot tub or swim with your drainage catheter. Talk to your visiting nurse if you have any questions about this.

The visiting nurse will come to your home to drain the built up fluid in your abdomen as often as the doctor ordered it. This is usually every 1 to 3 days.

Go to the Emergency Department at the hospital closest to you if you have:

- New or worsening pain in your abdomen
- Bleeding that soaks through the dressing over your drainage catheter site
- A fever above 38.3° C/100.9°F at any time or above 38.0° C/100.4°F for more than an hour
- Shakes and chills (with or without a fever)

Call the interventional radiologist if you have:

- Any drainage fluid that soaks through the dressing over your drainage catheter site. Leave your drainage catheter connected to the drainage bag if it is leaking. Your visiting nurse can help you with this.
- Redness, swelling or green/yellow discharge around your drainage catheter site.
- Your drainage catheter comes out or you feel like it is coming out.

Call 905-576-8711 extension 33527 between the hours of 8am and 4pm and ask to talk to the interventional radiology clerk. After 4pm or on weekends or holidays, call 905-433-4305 and ask to talk to the interventional radiologist on-call. Go to the Emergency Department at the hospital closest to you if you are not able to talk to an interventional radiologist. To leave a non-urgent message with a question you have, call the Interventional Radiology Department at 905-576-8711 extension 33527. Your call will be returned on the next regular work day.

Talk to a member of your health care team if you have questions or do not understand any information in this handout.